

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

MAY 25, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HULL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10421.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10421) providing for a Second Assistant Secretary of War, having had the same under consideration, report it back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

A letter from the honorable Secretary of War urging the passage of this bill is herewith submitted and made a part of this report; also copy of letter giving information as to action of the War Department on this line during the civil war.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, May 17, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith draft of a bill to provide for the appointment, during time of war, of a Second Assistant Secretary of War, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall be entitled to a salary of \$4,000 a year, payable monthly, and who shall perform such duties in the Department of War as shall be prescribed by the Secretary or may be required by law.

The need of a Second Assistant Secretary at this time is very urgent, and the matter is therefore earnestly recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully,

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 20, 1898.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your oral inquiry this morning respecting the office of Assistant Secretary of War, I beg to say that upon examination it is found that the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War was authorized by an act of August 3, 1861 (12 Stats., p. 287), and that an act of January 22, 1862 (12 Stats., p. 332), authorized the appointment of two additional Assistant Secretaries of War for the

period of one year (13 Stats., p. 331). By section 4 of the "Act to provide for the temporary increase of the pay of officers in the Army, and for other purposes," approved March 2, 1867, section 1 of the act of August 3, 1861, authorizing the President to appoint an Assistant Secretary of War, was repealed. The office was, however, revived by act of August 5, 1862, but not having been filled, the provision of the said act reviving the office was repealed. By act of March 5, 1890 (26 Stats., p. 17), the appointment of an Assistant Secretary was again authorized.

The records show that P. H. Watson, of the District of Columbia, was appointed Assistant Secretary of War on January 22, 1862, and continued in that office until July 31, 1864; that John Tucker, of Pennsylvania, was appointed Assistant Secretary of War January 27, 1862, and continued in the office until February 1, 1863; that C. P. Wolcott, of Ohio, was appointed Assistant Secretary of War July 1, 1862, and continued in the office until January 1, 1863; that C. A. Dana, of New York, was appointed Assistant Secretary of War March 1, 1864, and continued in the office until July 31, 1865. The next appointment of Assistant Secretary of War was that of Lewis A. Grant, of Minnesota, who was appointed in pursuance of the act of March 5, 1890, and who was succeeded by Joseph B. Doe, of Wisconsin, who in turn was succeeded by G. D. Meiklejohn, of Nebraska, the present incumbent.

From the foregoing it will be perceived that for a portion of the period between January 22, 1862, and July 31, 1864, there were three Assistant Secretaries of War serving contemporaneously.

Very truly, yours,

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

Hon. THOS. H. CARTER,
Of Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

○